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UNCLAS PRAGUE 000127

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: CZECH SENATE GIVES FINAL APPROVAL FOR EXTENSION OF
TROOPS IN IRAQ

REF: PRAGUE 111

The Czech Senate on Jan 27 overwhelmingly approved extension of the Czech military police contingent in Iraq through 2005.

The decision follows last week's lower house vote (reftel) and is the final step in the approval process. Out of 72 senators present, 69 voted in favor of the extension; two Communists and one Social Democrat opposed. In addition to the 98 military police who are training Iraqi security forces near Basra, a ten-member army surgical team is also deployed to MNF-I through 2005.

CABANISS